

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01483 051236Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----051245 042219 /46

P 051111Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2055

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1483

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SY  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF RABBI HECHT

REF: STATE 47725

1. DELIGHTED WITH NEWS THAT RABBI HECHT'S PLANS HAVE  
FIRMED UP TO COME HERE. AM I TO UNDERSTAND THAT  
WHEN YOU SAY MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP HAVE "SOME DIRECT  
OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY"  
THAY THEY THEMSELVES ORIGINATE FROM THIS COMMUNITY;  
IF SO, I WILL INCLUDE IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH SARG THAT  
THIS VISIT IN PART REPRESENTS RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION BY PRESIDENT  
ASAD TO SOLARZ IN EARLY 1975 THAT FORMER MEMBERS  
OF COMMUNITY SHOULD COME BACK TO VISIT.

2. I HAVE NEVER BEEN IN TOUCH WITH RABBI YADID IN  
ALEPPO BUT ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM PASSING MESSAGE  
THROUGH RABBI HAMRA.

3. AS FAR AS PROGRAM IS CONCERNED, I THINK RABBI HECHT  
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SHOULD CALL ON DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS SHOIFI AT  
FONMINISTRY. I WILL ALSO SEEK APPOINTMENT FOR HIM WITH  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AL-KHANI. I, OF COURSE, LOOK  
FORWARD TO MEETING RABBI HECHT AND GROUP MYSELF AND  
REVIEWING SITUATION IN DEPTH WITH THEM AT BEGINNING OF  
THEIR VISIT.

4. UNCERTAINTIES SURFACED IN DCM'S MARCH 3 MEETING WITH COMMUNITY LEADER TOUTAH (DAMASCUS 1470) RAISE IN MY MIND QUESTION OF UTILITY OF CHABOT AND SHALOM VISIT PRIOR TO HECHT'S ARRIVAL. I AM GLAD YOU GOT POINT ACROSS THERE NO POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SARG AT THIS POINT IN TIME BUT I AM CONCERNED THAT THESE TWO WILL COME ANXIOUS TO PRESS FORWARD ON DETAILS WITH WHICH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IS SIMPLY NOT YET PREPARED TO COPE. AT SAME TIME I RECOGNIZE YOU MAY NOT FEEL AT THIS LATE STAGE IT POSSIBLE TO RECOMMEND THAY CANCEL THEIR TRIP. IF SO, EMPHASIZE THEY SHOULD CONTACT EMBASSY ON ARRIVAL. SUBJECT THEIR AGREEMENT I WOULD PLAN NOTIFY SARG PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT IS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RABBI HECHT'S GROUP.

5. YOU REFERRED IN PARA 4 REFTEL TO PAPER I HAD GIVEN GOLDRICH. EVEN IF HE PUBLISHES THIS PAPER (AND I HOPE THAT GRUEN WILL SUCCEED IN KEEPING GOLDRICH OUT OF THE MEDIA), I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL DO ANY HARM. THE PAPER IN QUESTION WAS SUMMARY OF SIX POINTS FROM THE SHOIFI BRIEFING WITHOUT ANY INTERPRETATION OR GLOSS WHICH SHOIFI GAVE TO THOSE POINTS. (DAMASCUS 306, PARA 2, A-F).

6. RE EMBTEL 49217 YOU WILL HAVE REPORT OF DCM'S MARCH 6 MEETING ON FOLLOWING DAY.

MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC01483  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 47725  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3196263  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF RABBI HECHT  
**TAGS:** PINT, OTRA, SY, (HECHT, RABBI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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